



## ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
420 West State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288  
815-966-2900

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHET EPPERSON  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# INFORMATION RELEASE

**DATE & TIME**      **05/29/13 8:46 AM**

**Bureau:**              **Field Services Bureau**

**Authorized Supervisor:**    **Lieutenant Patrick Hoey**

**Phone:**                **815-987-5744**

**Incident:**              **Rockford Police and Religious Leaders' Collaboration  
Graduation**

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### MESSAGE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Event Title:**    **Rockford Police and Religious Leaders' Collaboration Graduation**

**Time:**              **Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.**

**Location:**        **Public Safety Building, Classroom A&B**

Rockford Police Chief Chet Epperson will be holding a graduation ceremony for several religious leaders who have attended a five week training class.

The purpose of the classes was to build relationships of cooperation and trust between the Rockford police and religious leaders of Rockford through training, education, and purposeful communication.

The desired outcome is that the Rockford Police will become better informed about the role the religious leaders and places of worship play in the lives of Rockford citizens, and the religious leaders will become better informed about police work in Rockford. This will enable them to work together in a mutually supportive manner on behalf of the citizens of Rockford.

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The religious leaders have attended five 2-hour learning sessions, which provided an opportunity to do a ride-along with police and the opportunity for clergy to participate in the Department's semi-annual training blocks.

The topics discussed were:

- Organizational Structure and Culture
- Police Chaplain Division
- Community Policing
- Geographic Policing
- Neighborhood Organizations
- Review of arrest
- Intake procedure
- Video Camera System
- How to recognize drug and gang activity
- Review of police training regarding racial profiling and cultural competency
- Crime analysis and web site use
- Meet your District Commander
- Laws regarding
  - transient and homeless individuals
  - panhandling
  - gang graffiti
  - traffic issues,
- Neighborhood Network Referral Systems

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